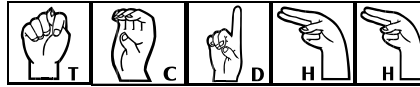


TCDHH



January 2010

Volume 1, Issue 7




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From the Director's Desk — Thom Roberts



 *With the new year comes new opportunities and new challenges. During 2009, the council has made significant steps forward by creating our four standing committees and by reaching out to many organizations and agencies. It is our hope that this will continue in the New Year as well. I appreciate each member of our council for their hard work and devotion to our mission. We also reach out to those of you who are not members of our council to join us as we seek to improve the lives of every one who is deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, and late-deafened.*

*On behalf of the membership and staff of TCDHH,
I wish you all a very
Happy and Prosperous New Year!*



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Andrea Cooper, DRS Asst. Commissioner
Dana Hughes, Consumer, Chair
Paulette Melton, DHS, Vice Chair
Summer Chappell, TRID
Michael Friedman, Central Tennessee
Deborah Harris, West Tennessee
Alan Mealka, Dept. of Education
Laurie Pullins, East Tennessee
Lordy Smith, Consumer
Lygia Williams, Dept. of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities
Kim Dance, TAD President

The League Celebrates Name Change



While their name has changed, their commitment to serving D/deaf, hard of hearing and hearing individuals in middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky has not.

Visit their new website to learn about the exciting programs and resources available:
www.hearingbridges.org, or stop by in person. They're still located at 415 Fourth Avenue in Nashville. You can contact them at (615) 248-8828 or by VP (615) 290-5147.



Introductions (& Congratulations)



This year the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness (SERID) meeting was held in Biloxi, Mississippi. **Terri Rice**, our first deaf-blind staff member was recognized as the Outstanding Deaf/Hard of Hearing Citizen of the year at the conference's closing ceremonies.



Northeast TN Deaf Activities (NETDA) DAW Banquet

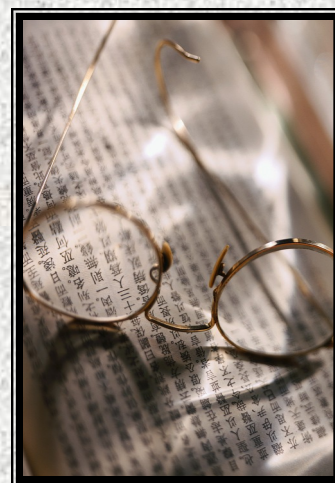
NETDA held their Deaf Awareness Week Banquet on October 17, 2009 in Johnson City. They honored TCDHH Executive Director, Thom Roberts with the Advocate for the Deaf Award. It was a great time of fun and food!



TCDHH Council Highlights

November 13, 2009

- We are very close to having video phones installed for our counselors who are deaf and hard of hearing. We will also be providing Blackberries for all counselors for the Deaf. Texting is a major communication method for people who are deaf or hard of hearing and our counselors need that ability as well.
- Deaf Connect of the Mid-South, Inc. sponsored a town hall meeting on the needs of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind on Saturday, October 17. Panels included a U.S. Attorney from the Department of Justice, an attorney with the Memphis Bar Association Justice Network, the city of Memphis ADA coordinator, a representative of Disability Law & Advocacy Center of Tennessee, and the disability program navigator of the Tennessee Career Center Workforce Investment Network.
- The first successful Tennessee Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing town hall meeting was held in Chattanooga with many giving great feedback as to the needs in their area. More town halls will follow each TAD Board meeting
- The members of the council are currently reviewing proposed changes to their bylaws to make sure it is inclusive and using current terminology.



TCDHH Executive Director's Activities



August

14 Suicide Prevention Awareness Event at the Nashville Sounds

18 Alerting Devices for the Deaf Meeting

27 Venue search for Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness 2012 in Chattanooga

September

9 Alerting Devices for the Deaf Meeting

15 TN Suicide Prevention Awareness Network (TSPN) Annual Memorial Event

26 – 30 SERID in Biloxi, Mississippi

October

9 Mental Health Workshop in Chattanooga with Steve Hamerdinger

10 Northeast Tennessee Deaf Activities Deaf Awareness Banquet

16 Relay Training at Disability Determination Services

17 TAD Board Meeting and Town Hall Meeting in Chattanooga

18 Hearing Loss Association of America Chattanooga Chapter

19 TN Voices for Children Community Forum

26 – 27 National Council on Disabilities in Nashville

28 TSPN Statewide Advisory Council

31 TN Organization of the Deaf-Blind Meeting in Nashville

November

4 Alerting Devices for the Deaf Meeting

9 League for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Ear Foundation's Name Change Celebration

SERID 2009, Biloxi, Mississippi

The Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness (SERID) has for many years been the premier training event for our VR Counselors who serve Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, and Deaf-Blind clients. Pictured below were a small contingent from Tennessee who were sponsored by the conference: (left to right) Paula Knisley, Lana Newton, and Kim Dance. Though you see their smiles, they were worn out since this was taken right before we left for home. The conference was a non-stop educational and networking experience for those who attended. There were many workshops on various topics that it was difficult to choose which one to attend.



In 2010, SERID will again have their annual conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Everyone is welcomed to attend since there are many educational tracks for a variety of interested people. For more information about SERID, please go to their webpage at: www.serid.org.

Galludet University's New President

Gallaudet University announced that Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz has been appointed by the Board of Trustees as Gallaudet University's tenth president beginning January 1, 2010. Dr. Hurwitz is a graduate of Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis. Dr. Hurwitz served as president at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) for the past several years. He also worked for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in other capacities since 1970. We wish him well in his new position!

Congratulations!



Happy Valentine's Day-

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.

-Helen Keller



Did You Know?

Each color of Rose has a special meaning. With Valentines Day just around the corner, you might want to check out the list below.

Red=Love, Beauty

Dark Red=Unconscious beauty

Single Red=I love you

White=Purity, Innocence

Pink=Appreciation

Light Pink=Admiration

Yellow=Friendship, delight

Yellow/Red tip=Falling in love

Orange/Coral=Desire

Lavender=Love at first sight



**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

Tennessee Council for the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing
Citizens Plaza Building, 14th Floor
400 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Phone: (615) 313-4918
Fax: (615) 532-4685
TTY: (615) 313-5695
Email: Thom.Roberts@tn.gov

<http://tennessee.gov/humanserv/rehab/cc6.htm>



Tennessee Organization of the Deaf-Blind AWARDS

At their October 31st meeting President of TODB, John Forbes, asked Thom Roberts to present on TCDHH activities. Roberts assured that even though the words, "deaf-blind" were not a part of the title of the council that they would not be forgotten or ignored. TCDHH has always had a good relationship with TODB and will continue to do so in the future.

At the close of the meeting, President Forbes awarded Billy Wilson, Wilma Wilson, and Homer Amonett, certificates expressing gratitude for their outstanding service to their organization.



Deaf?

Have a problem with drugs or alcohol?

Want signed 12 Step & support meetings?

Deaf Off Drugs and Alcohol offers deaf 12 Step & support meetings led by Deaf facilitators.

All you need is a computer with a web-cam,
high-speed internet and an email account.

If interested, for more information, contact Mandie Roseberry:

(866) 326-4761 vp (937) 222-2400 ext 239 v amanda.roseberry@wright.edu

Upcoming Events



Winter

Nashville Public Library's Career Day is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2010 at the Main Library Conference Center. The event is being sponsored by The A&D Council of Middle TN — Deaf and Hard of Hearing program, Hearing Bridges, and the Library Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. For more info: www.library.nashville.org



The Celebration of Sign is moving....

The new location will be Los Angeles, CA. Tentatively, Auditions will be held in May 2010. Travel assistance for performers will be available.

**For more info:
www.gatecommunications.org**



The next TCDHH Council meeting is scheduled for February 26th, 2010. It will be held at Hearing Bridges, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

SERID 2010
OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2010
Louisville, KY

"Rising to the Challenge: Raising the Bar"



RID Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
Advocates. Supporters. Facilitators.

Region II Conference
July 29 - August 1, 2010
Chattanooga, TN



Tennessee Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Mission Statement

The Tennessee Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TCDHH) exists to serve as an advocate for culturally appropriate services affecting Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind persons through coordination, public awareness, and consultation in areas of public service, health care, and education and employment.